the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, dated the 9th June, 1992 under the caption "T.B. Association on Warpath";

(b) whether the T.B. Association of India is collecting funds by way of donation and through sale of T. B. Seals, which are exempt under 80G and 10 (22-A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961; if so, whether Government propose to look into the allegations of Financial Irregularities and take action against those who may be found guilty as this involves public money utilised for personal gains; and

(c) whether Rules and Regulations, are followed by the Association ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The T. B. Association of Indian generates funds through donations and sale of TB seals. The Chairman of the TB Association of India has aoppointed an enquiry committee to look into the alleged irregularities.

Running of Chemist Shops

3657. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made it obligatory for an individual to have a degree/diploma in pharmacy for running a Chemist shop in the country, if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of the chemist shops cancelled due to violation/non-fulfilment of such condition;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to extend grants to institutes providing pharmaceutical degrees/diplomas, if so, the locations of such institutes in Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) the annual grant extended to such institutes, institutewise during last three years alongwith the number of persons trained therein ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir. It is necessary to employ a 'qualified person' as defined under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, for a Chemist's shop.

(b) There is no such scheme under this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Growth rate of Population

3658. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present natural growth rate of population of 1.95 per cent is very high and that stabilisation of population is a national priority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Population control has been identified as one of the six key objectives in the VIII Plan. An Action Plan is being operationalised by the State Governments/UTs for promoting family planning. Special Schemes for implementation are being taken up in demographically poor performing areas.

"एड्स" पर नियंत्रण हेतु दो समितियों की स्थापना

3659. **श्री सोमपाल :** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान दिनांक 15 सितम्बर, 1992 के राष्ट्रीय सहारा, (दिल्ली संस्करण) में "एड्स के नाम पर अरबों रुपए डकारने की होड़" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) "एड्स" को नियंत्रित करने हेतु एक ही मंत्रालय में दो समितियां